

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner, comprising a binder resin and a colorant, and having a plurality of absorption peaks in a wave number range of 400 to 4,000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in an infrared absorption spectrum, wherein among the plurality of absorption peaks, a maximum absorption peak appears at wave number ranging from 500 to 800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and, given that the intensity of the maximum absorption peak is P1 and that the intensity of a second greatest absorption peak is P2, P1 and P2 satisfy the following equation (1).

$$1.6 \leq P1/P2 \leq 6.0 \dots \text{Equation (1)}$$

2. The toner of claim 1, wherein the toner is prepared by a wet process.

3. The toner of claim 2, which is prepared by a method of mixing a resin particle dispersion liquid in which resin particles having an average particle diameter of 1 micron or smaller are dispersed, and a colorant dispersion liquid in which a colorant is dispersed, forming toner size aggregates including the resin particles and the colorant, and heating and coalescing the toner size aggregates.

4. The toner of claim 1, wherein, when glossiness of a fixed image at a surface temperature of a fixing member of  $t^{\circ}\text{C}$  is  $G(t)$ , and when glossiness of a fixed image at a surface temperature of  $t-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  is  $G(t-20)$  and when glossiness of a fixed image at the surface temperature of  $t+20^{\circ}\text{C}$  is  $G(t+20)$ ,  $G(t)$ ,  $G(t-20)$  and  $G(t+20)$  satisfy the following equation (2).

$$0 \leq [G(t+20) - G(t)] / [G(t) - G(t-20)] \leq 0.8 \dots \text{Equation}$$

(2)

5. The toner of claim 1, wherein the binder resin is a styrene-acrylic resin having a weight average molecular weight Mw of 20,000 to 40,000, and a number average molecular weight Mn of 3,000 to 8,000.

6. The toner of claim 1, wherein the P1/P2 is 1.6 to 4.0.

7. The toner of claim 1, wherein the binder resin is prepared by using a chain transfer agent, and the chain transfer agent is selected from an n-alkylmercaptan, a branched alkylmercaptan and an aromatic ring-containing mercaptan which have at least 4 carbon atoms.

8. The toner of claim 1, wherein the binder resin is prepared at a mass ratio A/B, of a mass A of a polymerization initiator and a mass B of a chain transfer agent, of 0.6/4.0 to 0.04/10.0.

9. The toner of claim 1, wherein the toner further contains a releasing agent at 0.5 to 50% by mass.

10. The toner of claim 1, wherein the binder resin contains a cross-linking agent.

11. The toner of claim 10, wherein the amount of the cross-linking agent is 1% by mass or less of a total amount of the binder resin.

12. A two-component developer, comprising the toner of claim 1 and a carrier.

13. The two-component developer of claim 12, wherein an absolute value of a charged amount of the toner is 10 to 40  $\mu\text{C/g}$ .

14. The two-component developer of claim 12, wherein

the carrier has a resin coating layer.

15. An image forming method, comprising the steps of:  
forming an electrostatic latent image on a surface of  
an electrostatic latent image holding member;

developing the electrostatic latent image with a  
developer containing a toner on a surface of a developer  
holding member to form a toner image;

transferring the toner image onto a surface of a  
recording material; and

fixing the toner image onto the surface of the  
recording medium,

wherein the toner is the toner of claim 1.

16. The image forming method of claim 15, wherein a  
fixing member and the toner are brought into contact with  
each other in the fixing step, and a surface of the fixing  
member contains fluororesin.

17. The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the  
recording medium is a sheet of paper having a basis weight  
of 30 to 150 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

18. The image forming method of claim 15, wherein a  
contact time of the fixing member and the toner is 30 to 100  
ms.

19. An image forming apparatus comprising an  
electrostatic latent image holding member, exposing means  
for exposing the electrostatic latent image holding member  
to form an electrostatic latent image, developing means for  
adhering the toner of claim 1 to the electrostatic latent  
image to form a toner image, transferring mean for  
transferring the toner image onto a surface of a recording

medium, and fixing means for fixing the toner image onto the surface of the recording medium.